



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

Dear Families,

The 2009 Legislative session ended on June 3, 2009. As you may have heard, the session ended without a final budget being passed. A special session will be held at a date yet to be determined to pass a budget for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

For the past several years, Governor M. Jodi Rell and the Legislature have generously provided funding for supported employment or day services for the over 200 young adults who are consumers of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and are graduating from high school each year. DDS has a long record of working with school systems to plan appropriately for these transitions with the involvement of case managers and transition coordinators.

As you know, the state is currently facing a significant deficit for not only the current fiscal year, but also Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. Thus, any new services are dependent upon budgetary appropriations. Both Governor Rell's proposed budget and the Appropriations Committee's proposed budget include funding for young adults who will graduate this month and who are served by DDS. However, until a final budget is passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Rell, DDS will not be able to authorize or fund any employment support or other day services for students graduating this year. We will not have any new funding for school graduates until an approved budget for the full fiscal year is enacted.

We understand that this uncertainty will cause difficulty for many of the families we serve. We suggest that your family discuss and develop a back up plan that can get you through the next several weeks until this issue is fully resolved. The region may be able to assist with temporary family support funding so contact your case manager soon if you want to apply for family support to assist your family plan for the immediate future.

We apologize for any hardship that this decision may cause your family, but the department cannot spend beyond amounts appropriated through the state budget process. As soon as the budget is passed and we know the status of funding for June 2009 school graduates, we will contact you again.